(e) what is the estimate of the shortage of 2 and 3 star hotel rooms in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) There is an urgent need for upgrading ITDC properties for which large investments are necessary. Since there is a constraint on resources, Government is considering the possibility of raising these resources from the market and by inviting equity participation. No final decision on the subject has yet been taken.

(c) and (d) The need of making available hotel accommodation for the middle class tourists is fully recognised by the Government. As a measure to encourage construction of 1, 2 and 3 star category of hotels, 3 per cent interest subsidy is being given to such approved hotel projects on the entire amount of loan obtained from financial institution. The Central Government also gives financial assistance to State Governments for setting up of Yatri Niwases which provides cheap accommodation for the tourists.

(e) Though shortage of 2 and 3 star hotel rooms is felt at prominent tourist centres and big cities, no precise estimates on the shortage can be given.

Short supply of coal to cements factories in Tamil Nadu

280. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardships being faced by the cement factories in Tamil Nadu owing to acute short supply of coal/lignite;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to fully exploit the lignite available at Jayankondam in Tiruchir district of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) whether Government propose to make some arrangement for interim supply of lignite/coal for these cement industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is some shortfall in supply of coal to the cement plants in Tamil Nadu. However, Government have taken steps to provide alternate sources of supply of coal to these cement plants. Coal is being allotted to some of the cement plants in Tamil Nadu from Bengal-Bihar Coalfields for movement by rail-cum-sea route. Every effort is being made to increase movement of coal from WCL. The Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NCL), Neyveli had supplied about, 4 Lakh tonnes of Lignite cement plants in Tamil Nadu during 1990-91 and during the period April-October, 1991 about 3.03 lakh tonnes of lignite has already been supplied to them. In 1991-92, 0.6 million tonnes of lignite is programmed to be supplied to cement industry. As per information given by Neyveli Lignite Corporation, they have no immediate proposal to exploit the lignite available at Jayakondam in Trichy District in Tamil Nadu.

Modernisation of Madras International Airport

821. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched any scheme to modernise the Madras International Airport; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following schemes are in progress:—

(i) strengthening and extension of Main Runway and Parallel Texitrack.

(ii) construction of Additional Aircraft Parking Bays.